

I claim:

1. An animal feed ingredient, comprising:  
an effective amount of a naturally occurring source of humic acids and fulvic acids.
- 5 2. The animal feed ingredient of claim 1, wherein said effective amount comprises at least about 25% humic acids and fulvic acids in combination on a dry weight basis.
3. The animal feed ingredient of claim 2, wherein said effective amount comprises between about 40% and 90% humic acids and fulvic acids in combination on a dry weight basis.
- 10 4. The animal feed ingredient of claim 2, wherein said naturally occurring source of humic acids and fulvic acids is Leonardite.
5. The animal feed ingredient of claim 2, wherein said naturally occurring source is further comprised of humins.
- 15 6. An animal feed, comprising:  
nutrients; and  
an effective amount of a naturally occurring source of humic acids and fulvic acids.
7. The feed of claim 6, wherein said feed is comprised of at least about 0.05% humic acids and fulvic acids in combination.
- 20 8. The feed of claim 7, wherein said feed is comprised of between about 0.5% and 0.75% humic acids and fulvic acids in combination.
9. A method of feeding animals, comprising:

providing an animal feed comprising nutrients and an effective amount of a naturally occurring source of humic acids and fulvic acids; and feeding said feed to said animals.

10. The method of claim 9, wherein said animal is a cow, pig or chicken.

5 11. The method of claim 9, wherein said animal's feed intake is increased by at least about 3%.

12. The method of claim 11, wherein said animal's feed intake is increased by at least about 10%.

13. The method of claim 9, wherein said animal's growth rate is increased by at least about 5%.

14. The method of claim 13, wherein said animal's growth rate is increased by at least about 7%.

15. The method of claim 9, wherein said animal's feed conversion efficiency is increased by at least about 3%.

15 16. The method of claim 15, wherein said animal's feed conversion efficiency is increased by at least about 8%.

17. The method of claim 9, wherein the number of pigs seen to scour is reduced by about 10% in the first week post-weaning and is reduced by about 2% for the second through the fifth weeks post-weaning.

20 18. The method of claim 17, wherein the number of pigs seen to scour is reduced by about 17% in the first week post-weaning and is reduced by about 5% for the second through the fifth weeks post-weaning.